

August 5, 1999

things and it has truly been a pleasure and honor to have him work in my office this summer. His intelligence and unique sense of humor will be missed. I thank you Will for all your hard work and effort. All the best.

INTERNET PHARMACY CONSUMER
PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues, RON KLING, JOHN DINGELL, and BART STUPAK, in introducing the Internet Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act of 1999.

While the Internet is transforming global finance and culture, it is also raising novel questions about the practices of medicine and pharmacy. There is no question that the World Wide Web and other forms of e-commerce have facilitated consumer access to health information and products. Patients clearly benefit from the rapid dissemination of reliable medical knowledge, and from novel, convenient ways of receiving health care.

But unwary consumers are also increasingly exposed to fraud or quackery from anonymous, unaccountable vendors. Illegal, unsafe or unapproved drugs and dietary supplements are more widely available than ever. Hundreds of offshore and domestic "pill mills" dispense Viagra or Xenical to patients sight unseen—as well as to shorthair cats, the deceased, and patients with life-threatening counterindicated health conditions, as an investigation by WWMT of Kalamazoo, Michigan discovered.

On July 30, the Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on online pharmacies. We heard a clear message from the testimony of Federal Trade Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Justice, state authorities like the Texas Department of Health, and investigative media—regulators simply cannot enforce existing laws to protect consumers from illegal online pharmacies unless they know who is responsible and where they are.

The Internet Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act of 1999 requires very simple disclosures from online pharmacies. Tell us your name and place of business. Tell us where your pharmacy is licensed. And tell us where your online physician, if any, is licensed. That's all.

With this basic information, regulators are hamstrung. No enforcement is possible or requires unsustainable commitments of limited law enforcement resources. But enactment of and compliance with this legislation would quickly separate legitimate from illegitimate online pharmacies.

Failure to comply with these minimal requirements would also help warn consumers from questionable websites. In fact, Congress and the Administration are already aggressively encouraging responsible online businesses to provide comparable disclosures regarding their privacy policies. The lack of licensure and privacy information at an online pharmacy should provide a clear warning of caveat emptor.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Nor does this legislation pose a technical barrier to e-commerce. It only asks online pharmacies to provide the same licensure information as brick and mortar pharmacies do when they hang framed licenses on the wall. It is a simple matter to add a few new links to online pharmacy sites. In fact, any person with rudimentary knowledge of HTML could write up the necessary information and upload it to a website in a matter of minutes.

The Internet Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act of 1999 is a simple and common-sense way to help federal and state authorities enforce existing consumer and public health protections. Responsible online pharmacies are likely already in compliance with the legislation, or could be in a matter of minutes. But illegal, unprofessional or questionable online pharmacies will be exposed to greater scrutiny and more susceptible to the enforcement of essential legal protections and State licensure requirements.

I urge my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring the Internet Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act of 1999.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO AMEND THE ALASKA NATIVE
CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would address several matters of concern to Alaska Natives through an amendment to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).

As my colleagues know, ANCSA was enacted in 1971, stimulated by the need to address Native land claims as well as the desire to clear the way for the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and thereby provide our country with access to the petroleum resources of Alaska's North Slope. As the years pass, issues arise which require amending that Act. The Resources Committee as a matter of course routinely considers such amendments and brings them before the House.

Consequently, I am introducing this bill containing several such amendments to ANCSA in order to facilitate having its provisions circulated during the upcoming Congressional recess through the Congress and the Administration as well as the State of Alaska for review and consideration.

This bill has nine provisions. One provision would allow common stock to be willed to adopted-out descendants and another would clarify the liability for contaminated lands. The clarification of contaminated land would declare that no person acquiring interest in land under this Act shall be liable for the costs of removal or remedial action, any damages, or any third party liability arising out or as a result of any contamination on that land at the time the land was acquired under this Act.

SECTION 5. ALASKA NATIVE VETERANS

Section 5 of the bill amends the Act further to allow equal access to Alaska Native Veterans who served in the military or other armed services during the Viet Nam war. Alaska

Natives have faithfully answered the call of duty when asked to serve in the armed services. In fact, American Indians and Alaska Natives generally have the highest record of answering the call to duty.

Under the Native Allotment Act, Alaska natives were allowed to apply for lands which they traditionally used as fish camps, berry picking camps or hunting camps. However, many of our Alaska natives answered the call to duty and served in the services during the Viet Nam war and were unable to apply for their native allotment. This provision allows them to apply for their native allotments and would expand the dates to include the full years of the Viet Nam war. The original dates recommended by the Administration only allowed the dates January 1, 1969 to December 31, 1971. Our Alaska Natives veterans should not be penalized for serving during the entire dates of the Viet Nam conflict. This provision corrects that inequity by expanding the dates to reflect all the years of the Viet Nam war—August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975.

SECTION 8. ELIM NATIVE CORPORATION LAND
RESTORATION

In 1917, the Norton Bay Reservation was established on 350,000 acres of land located on the north side of Norton Bay southeast of Nome, Alaska for the benefit of Alaska Natives who now reside in the village of Elim, Alaska. The purpose of the establishment of the reservation included providing a land, economic, subsistence, and resources base for the people of that area.

In 1929, through an Executive Order, 50,000 acres of land were deleted from the reservation with little consultation and certainly without the informed consent of the people who were to be most affected by such a deletion. After passage of ANCSA, only the remaining 300,000 acres of the original Reservation were conveyed to the Elim Native Corporation. This loss of land from the original Reservation has become over the years a festering wound to the people of Elim. It now needs to be healed through the restoration or replacement of the deleted fifty thousand acres of land to the Native Village Corporation authorized by ANCSA to hold such land.

As I am sure my colleagues will agree, the history of our nation reflects many examples of injustices to Native Americans. As hearings will confirm, this is one of those calls out to be sensibly remedied and can be with relative ease as outlined in this section of the bill.

Again, I am introducing this bill today to facilitate having its provisions circulated and reviewed during the August recess by the Department of the Interior, the State of Alaska and Alaska natives.

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. ASIATIC
FLEET AND U.S.S. TRINITY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the bravery and valor exhibited by the veterans of the U.S. Navy Asiatic Fleet.

From 1910 to 1942, the Asiatic Fleet protected American interests and promoted American ideals in the Far East. At the time, the